

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2205  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO CINCLANT  
USCINCEUR  
USLOSACLANT  
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1459

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO  
SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1977: COMMENT ON IS SECOND DRAFT

REF: (A) USNATO 1049 (DTG 251845Z FEB 77), (B) USNATO 1283  
(DTG 081800Z MAR 77), (C) STATE 025307 (DTG 040055Z  
FEB 77), (D) USNATO 0369 (DTG 211828Z JAN 77),  
(E) STATE 049216 (DTG 050121Z MAR 77)

1. THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) DRAFT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1977 (TEXT SEPTTEL) DOES NOT, IN OUR VIEW, PROVIDE A SUITABLE REFERENCE POINT AND DIRECTIVE FOR ALLIANCE DEFENSE PLANNING ACTIVITIES. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH BOTH ITS STRUCTURE AND CONTENT, AS WE DID WITH THE FIRST DRAFT (REF A), AND HAD HOPED THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THESE WOULD HAVE BEEN CORRECTED AS A RESULT OF THE MARCH 7 DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) MEETING (REF B).

2. STRUCTURALLY, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1977 SHOULD BE A SELF-CONTAINED DOCUMENT CAPABLE  
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OF STANDING ON ITS OWN, AT LEAST TO THE EXTENT THAT IT SHOULD NOT REQUIRE FURTHER REFERENCE TO MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 1975 (E.G., PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 30). SECTION IV CONTINUES TO MIX PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS WITH PRIORITIES AND FAILS ADEQUATELY TO SUPPORT MANY OF THE PRIORITIES IT SETS FORTH. WE CONTINUE TO SEE THE NEED FOR A SEPARATE SECTION DEVOTED TO PRIORITIES.

3. SUBSTANTIVELY, WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH: A) THE FLACCIDITY OF THE SECTION ON RESOURCES; (B) THE EXCESSIVE

FOCUE ON ARMAMENTS PLANNING IN THE SECTION ON ALLIANCE CO-OPERATION, TO THE TOTAL EXCLUSION OF OTHER FORMS OF RATION-ALIZATION, AND THE LACK OF A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE NEED FOR INTEGRATION OF FORCE PLANNING WITH SUPPORT PLANNING (REF C, PARA 3H); C) THE LACK OF RECOGNIZTION OF THE NEED FOR MNCS TO REVIEW NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR POSSIBLE TRADEOFFS IN PREPARATION OF FORCE PROPOSALS (REF D, PARA 11); AND D) THE ABSENCE OF A SECTION PROVIDING GUIDANCE TO THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION.

4. DRC WILL MEET FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION OF THIS DRAFT EARLY MARCH 16. AT THAT MEETING WE INTEND TO ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGES, AS OUTLINED ABOVE. GUIDANCE CONTAINED REFS C AND E IS ADEQUATE FOR SUCH AN INITIAL DISCUSSION.  
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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